Liberty University
DigitalCommons@Liberty University

Faculty Publications and Presentations

Helms School of Government

Spring 2003

Comparative Politics Syllabus

Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs

Part of the Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons, Political Science Commons, and the Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons

Recommended Citation
Samson, Steven Alan, "Comparative Politics Syllabus" (2003). *Faculty Publications and Presentations.* Paper 380.
http://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs/380

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Helms School of Government at DigitalCommons@Liberty University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@Liberty University. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunication@liberty.edu.

Syllabus for
Comparative Politics
GOVT 330 – Spring 2003
Dr. Steven Alan Samson
Liberty University
School of Business and Government

I **Course Description** An introduction to a variety of concepts and approaches to the study of the domestic politics of other countries.

II. **Rationale** This course directly supports Aims 1-10 of the Liberty University Statement of Purpose.

III. **Prerequisite** GOVT 200 or GOVT 220, preferably both

IV. **Materials List** Comparative Politics 01/02 [C] (at the reserve desk)
Kaplan, Robert D. Eastward to Tartary [K]
Magstadt, Thomas M. Nations and Governments, 4th ed. [M]

Internet:
www.antiwar.com
www.countrywatch.com
www.fpri.org
http://www.ipl.org/reading/news/
http://www.lizardpoint.com/fun/geoquiz/index.html (map quizzes)
www.menewsline.com
www.stratfor.com
www.dir.yahoo.com/regional/countries

V. **Course Objectives**

1. The student will be exposed to a variety of concepts and social science approaches to the study of international relations.
2. The student will learn how to analyze and compare the history, geography, economies, governing institutions, and political behavior of contemporary nations, states, and international entities.
3. The student will thereby become better equipped to understand, participate in, and evaluate international political processes.

VI. **Graded Requirements and Options**

1. Each student is responsible for completing reading assignments **prior** to class and should keep a loose leaf notebook of class materials.
2. Participation is an essential part of class. Textbook chapters, collateral readings, and current events will be the subject of class commentary and discussions.
3. Students will be tested on the lecture and reading material through a series of seven tests that are to be taken at the scheduled time. Students who miss a test because of some university sponsored activity must bring a written request before the date of the test if they wish to arrange to take a make-up test.
4. Unless otherwise specified, the make-up test (available **only** to those with signed medical or academic excuses) may be taken at 7:30 AM on the day of the next class session.

Sleeping in and lack of preparation are not valid excuses. Each student will be graded on **no fewer** than seven test scores. Make-up work **may not** be delayed more than a week.

5. Each student will make a brief (10-12 minutes) oral presentation in class on a country of his/her choice. Restrictions: Countries covered in the Case Studies and countries with less than a million in population are ineligible (although mini- and microstates may be grouped together in a single report). Short abstracts (3-5 pages) based on the Area Study outline should be provided at the time of presentation. Yahoo.com has a Countries hyperlink on its web page. Other sources of information, including Erik von Kuehnelt-Leddihn's Intelligent American's Guide to Europe, will be available at the reserve desk. Presentations are graded on a pass/fail basis. The lowest test score will be dropped upon satisfactory completion of the assignment.
6. Two pass/fail world map tests are scheduled for February 3 and 24.
7. The grading scale is 100-90=A, 89-80=B, 79-70=C, 69-60=D, 59 and below=F.

VII. Attendance Students are supposed to arrive **on time** for every class meeting. Students who are absent due to illness or emergency should notify the professor prior to class or soon afterward. Excused absences include participation in university-sponsored events, serious illness (if accompanied by a physician's note), or a family emergency. Persistent absences or tardiness will have a detrimental effect on grades.

VIII. Dress Code Observe the Liberty Way. Students who are not in appropriate campus attire will **not** be admitted to class. Caps will **not** be worn in class. Other than drinks, there will be **no** eating in the classroom.

IX. Office Location, Phone, E-Mail, Hours

School of Business and Government, DH 130
Phone: 582-2640
E-Mail: ssamson@liberty.edu
Hours: MWF 1:20-2:10; TR 8-9:16; R 9:25-10:40, 1:40-2:55; and by appointment

CLASS SCHEDULE

January		
Wed.	15	Introduction
Fri.	17	Landes; M. 1
Mon.	20	M. 1
Wed.	22	M. 1-2
Fri.	24	M. 2
Mon.	27	M. 2
Wed.	29	M. 3; FIRST TEST: Landes; M. 1-2
Fri.	31	M. 3
February		
Mon.	3	M. 3-4
Wed.	5	M. 4; FIRST MAP TEST: Europe and Latin America
Fri.	7	M. 4;
Mon.	10	M. 5; SECOND TEST: M. 3-4
Wed.	12	M. 5
Fri.	14	M. 5-6
Mon.	17	M. 6
Wed.	19	M. 6; K. 1
Fri.	21	K. 2-3; THIRD TEST: M. 5-6

Mon.	24	K. 4-6
Wed.	26	K. 7-9; SECOND MAP TEST: Asia and Africa
Fri.	28	K. 10-12
March		
Mon.	3	K. 13-14
Wed.	5	K. 15-16; FOURTH TEST: K. 1-14
Fri.	7	K. 17-20
Mon.	10	K. 21-23
Wed.	12	K. 24-26
Fri.	14	K. 27-28
Mon.	17	SPRING BREAK
Wed.	19	SPRING BREAK
Fri.	21	SPRING BREAK
Mon.	24	M. 7
Wed.	26	M. 7; FIFTH TEST: K. 15-28
Fri.	28	M. 8
Mon.	31	M. 8
April		
Wed.	2	M. 9
Fri.	4	M. 9; SIXTH TEST: M. 7-8
Mon.	7	M. 10
Wed.	9	M. 10
Fri.	11	M. 11; PRESENTATIONS
Mon.	14	M. 11; SEVENTH TEST: M. 9-10
Wed.	16	M. 12; PRESENTATIONS
Fri.	18	M. 12; PRESENTATIONS
Mon.	21	M. 13; PRESENTATIONS
Wed.	23	M. 13; EIGHTH TEST: M. 11-12
Fri.	25	M. 14; PRESENTATIONS
Mon.	28	M. 14; PRESENTATIONS
Wed.	30	PRESENTATIONS
May		
Fri.	2	PRESENTATIONS: NINTH TEST: M. 13-14